

COUNTY ATTORNEY

DESCRIPTION

The County Attorney's Office is responsible for providing professional and timely legal representation and advice to the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, and county departments, boards, and commissions. Staff consists of eight attorneys and five full-time legal secretaries. The substantive areas involving the

majority of the office's time and resources include civil rights and personnel disputes, personal injury defense, workers' compensation, risk management, social services, condemnation, zoning and land use matters, contract disputes, municipal finance, environmental law, and local government taxation.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

	FY2002 Actual	FY2003 Adopted	FY2004 Biennial Planned	FY2004 Adopted	Change FY2003 to FY2004	FY2005 Projected	FY2006 Projected	FY2007 Projected
Personnel	\$1,039,978	\$1,086,600	\$1,086,600	\$1,112,100	2.3%	\$1,112,100	\$1,112,100	\$1,112,100
Operating	193,164	147,100	147,100	153,500	4.4%	153,500	153,500	153,500
Capital	<u>3,914</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	-20.0%	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total	\$1,237,057	\$1,238,700	\$1,238,700	\$1,269,600	2.5%	\$1,269,600	\$1,269,600	\$1,269,600
Revenue	<u>45,400</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	0.0%	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>
Net Cost	\$1,191,657	\$1,193,700	\$1,193,700	\$1,224,600	2.6%	\$1,224,600	\$1,224,600	\$1,224,600
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BUDGET ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

The litigation caseload of the county continued to expand because citizens increasingly seek legal approaches to resolving disputes. Despite the continually increasing workload, the department manages to provide successful legal representation with reduced resources and personnel while achieving a high success rate in reaching favorable results in civil cases. Efforts are ongoing to identify potential legal issues with clients at early stages, provide education to customers on the legal process,

and maintain an environment that fosters communication. With budget cuts and increased workload, overtime costs are increasing and non-compensated longer hours for the professional staff are starting to stress staff and delay response times. Client satisfaction is likely to deteriorate for routine legal matters. Revenue consists of reimbursements from the Utilities Department for legal services provided.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The workload of the County Attorney's Office is directly impacted by ongoing changes in areas such as service level demands, legislation, and internal policy and procedures. Technological efficiency is critical in an environment that is characterized by increased workloads and caseloads driven by outside

parties and unforeseeable events. The department will continue to evaluate new ways to use technology, including retrieval and searches of information required to represent the county in the most efficient and cost effective way.